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Dear CNL Cyberspace Patrons (and Friends):

QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

"Ray was a gold mine and I don't think we ever found out
how deep he went."

Michael J. Hodder
Associate Editor; The Colonial Newsletter

IN MEMORIAM

RAYMOND H. WILLIAMSON (1907-1997)

Raymond Howard Williamson, a numismatist for 80 years, died Dec. 13, 1997 at Virginia Baptist Hospital in his home town of Lynchburg, VA.. He is survived by his wife Hazel. They were married for 67 years and lived in Lynchburg since 1958. Ray was born at Eagle Grove, IA. in 1907. He received a BS degree at Iowa State, and an MS degree at Union College in Schenectady, NY; both degrees in Electrical Engineering. He was employed by General Electric for 43 years prior to his retirement in 1972.

Ray first collected coins in 1917 when he was 10 years old. He was a member of the American Numismatic Society since 1949 and was a Fellow in the Society since 1957. He was also a member of many other organizations including the American Numismatic Association, Virginia Numismatic Association and Early American Coppers Club. He was a Patron of The Colonial Newsletter Foundation. His

primary collecting interest was US large cents, however, his love of books and research led him to build an excellent numismatic library and provided the basis for assisting many other numismatists in research for their publications. He authored numerous papers which were published in "The Numismatist", "The Colonial Newsletter", "Coin World", "Seaby's Coin & Medal Bulletin", "Penny-Wise" and "The Virginia Numismatist" as well as numerous publications of The American Numismatic Society. He was an avid student of Lynchburg history and received the Numismatic Literary Guild Award for Extraordinary Merit for his article Lynchburg City Paper Money of 1862 published in "Lynch's Ferry", the official publication of the Lynchburg Historical Society. and served as a member of President L.B. Johnson's Assay Commission at the Philadelphia Mint, 1968.

Employed by the General Electric Company from 1928 to 1972, he was Manager of Engineering Administration for communication products in Syracuse, NY, and Lynchburg VA from 1954 to 1971, and was electronics specialist, implementing the "know-how" contract, in Milan, Italy, in 1950, and managed the installation of a very-high-power naval radio telegraph transmitter in the Panama Canal Zone in 1936 and 1939. He was Chairman of the FM Broadcast Engineering Committee to formulate and promulgate industry standards from 1942 to 1953. During his professional career, he was published in "I.R.E. Proceedings" and "Signal" magazine. He was a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, a member of the Elfun Society, Secretary of the Electoral Board of Lynchburg 1971-1980, a member of State and National Numismatic Society. He was a Boy Scout leader in Schenectady from 1929 to 1944. He was a member of the Lions Club and The Civil War Round Table. As a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, he served as a church elder and was a member of the Martin Gifford Sunday School Class since 1960.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Irene W. Evers. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two nieces, Virginia Pradt and Dorothy McCandless, both of Wisconsin.

A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday December 16, 1997 at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg with the Rev. Dr. James J.H. Price officiating. Diuguid Rivermont Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions, please consider The First Presbyterian Church (Lynchburg, VA) Memorial Fund.

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The Colonial Newsletter Foundation
(with sincere thanks to Mr. Ron Waddell; Forrest, VA)

Our Best Wishes to all for 1998 JCS